



**NTSB** National Transportation Safety Board

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*Office of Aviation Safety*

**Heli-USA Airways**  
**Aerospatiale AS350BA**  
**Haena, Hawaii**

Investigator-in-Charge  
Debra J. Eckrote

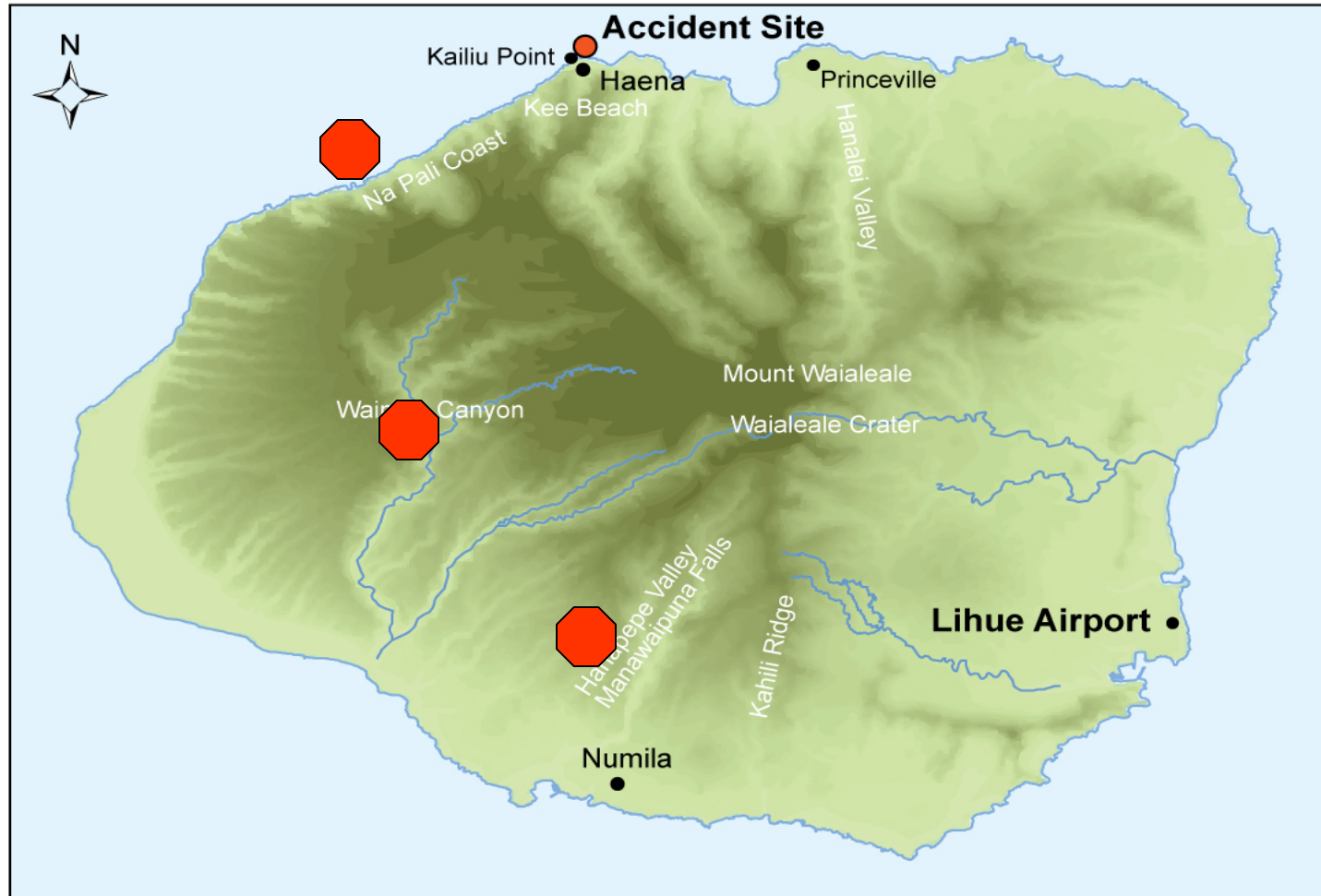
# Accident Location – Kee Beach



- Aerospatiale AS350BA
- Part 135 air tour flight
- Pilot and two passengers survived
- Three passengers died from drowning



# Tour of Kauai



# Passenger Photo – Na Pali Coast

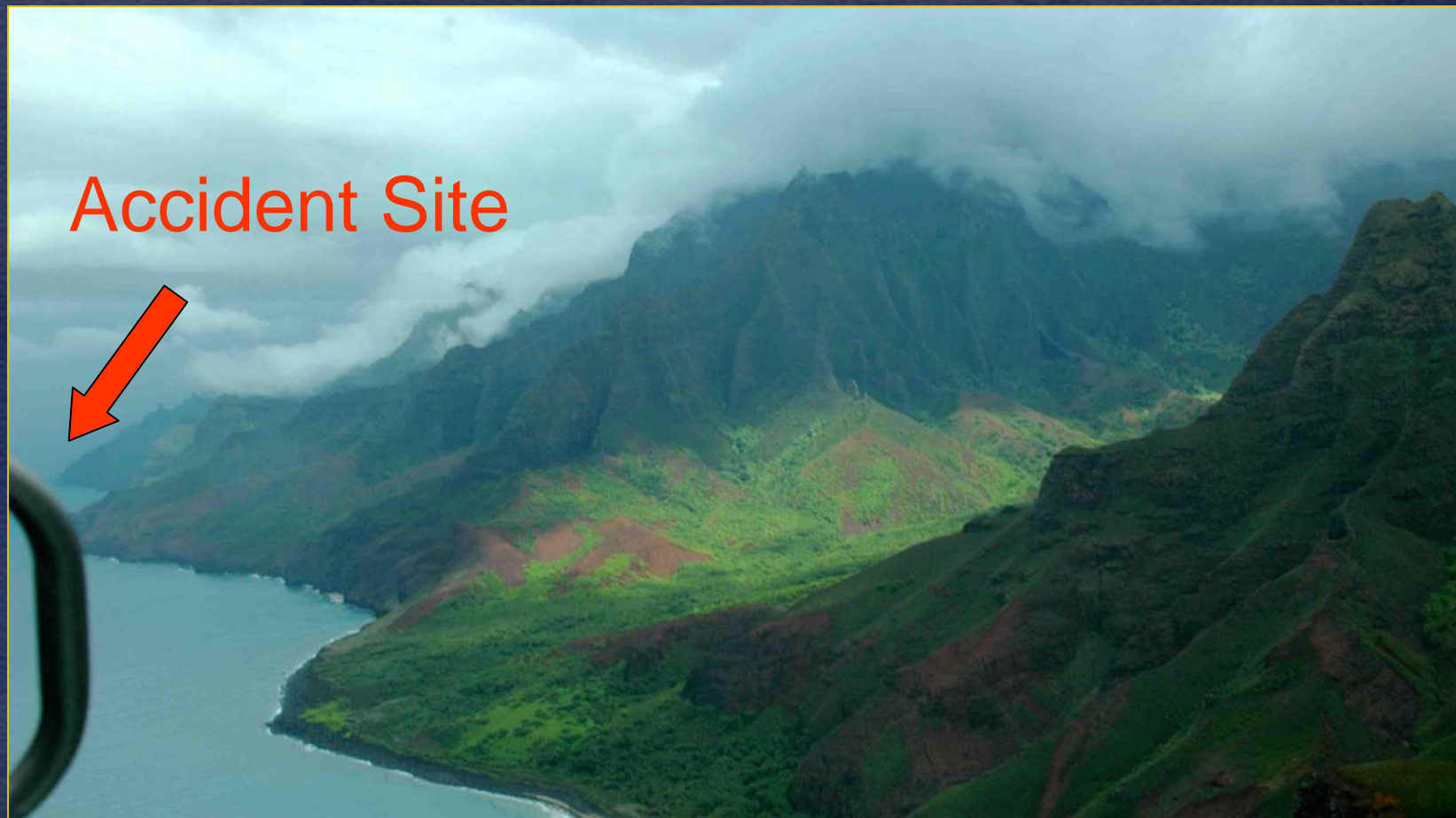
7 minutes before accident





# Passenger Photo – Na Pali Coast

4 minutes before accident



# Other Tour Pilots in Area

- First flight: entered and transited weather
- Second flight: turned around
- Third flight: accident
- Fourth flight: entered weather and reversed course



# Weather Study

- Upper-level disturbance
- Unstable, moist, low-level environment
- Conditions favorable for strong updrafts/downdrafts and threat of microburst development

# Weather Information Sources

- Direct User Access Terminal Service (DUATS)
- Flight Service Station (FSS)
- Automatic Terminal Information Service (ATIS)
- Local weather services



# Pilot Flight Experience

- Hired on July 29, 2005
- Completed training and competency checkrides by August 7, 2005
- First air tour flight August 8, 2005
- Total time: 2,814 hours
  - AS350: 334 hours
  - Hawaii: 177 hours

# Accident Sequence

- Rain showers off Kailiu Point
- Pilot – Evasive maneuver to avoid traffic
- Passengers – No evasive maneuver
- Entered reduced visibility, heavy rain
- Encountered downdraft or microburst
- Impacted water and immediately sank



# Parties to the Investigation

- Federal Aviation Administration
- American Eurocopter
- Heli-USA Airways



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